WHEREAS, An estimated Twenty Three million Americans, most of them unknowingly, have high blood pressure; and,

WHEREAS, High blood pressure is the primary cause of 60,000 American deaths annually and is a significant underlying cause of many of the more than 1,500,000 heart attacks and strokes suffered by Americans each year, with over 750,000 deaths per year resulting from these afflictions; and,

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that both the knowledge and medications are available to effectively detect and control high blood pressure, yet over half the Americans suffering from high blood pressure are unaware that they have it and only about one-eighth of those having this disease are now receiving adequate therapy; and,

WHEREAS, A National High Blood Pressure Education Program has been established with the primary objective of reducing the disability and premature death resulting from high blood pressure by stimulating and encouraging its early detection and aggressive treatment through increased public and professional awareness and action:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD F. KNEIP, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 1974 as

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE MONTH IN SOUTH DAKOTA

and I strongly urge all citizens, and the scientific, medical, educational philanthropic and health care professions and organizations of our State to commemorate this month by education and detection programs which emphasize the severity of high blood pressure and the need for continued efforts to control this silent killer.

We cannot control a major public health problem like high blood pressure without the cooperative efforts of public and private interests. I, therefore, invite and encourage the South Dakota Medical Society, the Heart Association, and other public and private health organizations to contribute their resources and expertise in the development of our South Dakota High Blood Pressure Program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this 23rd day of April, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Four

R. F. Kneip

RICHARD F. KNEIP, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Jean Johnson Asst.

LORNA B. HERSETH, SECRETARY OF STATE